

The Storm in Us All: An Etymological Study of Tempest

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Abstract : This paper charts the history of the English word Tempest from its origins in Proto-Indo European to its modern usage as a term for storms, both literal and metaphorical. It does so by way of considering the word's morphology, semiotics, and phonetics. It references numerous language studies and dictionaries to chronicle the word's many steps along that path, from demarcation of measurement to assessment of time, all the way to an observation about the weather or the human psyche. The conclusive findings show that tempest has undergone numerous changes throughout its history, and these changes interestingly parallel its connotations as a symbol for both chaotic weather and the chaos of the human spirit

Keywords : Tempest, etymology, language origins, English

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